



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

BRIEF NOTES

A Babylonian representation of a jumping mouse

THE STUDY of old-Egyptian zoology is easier than that of the old-Babylonian. The many pictures and the colored hieroglyphics show a large number of species and give evidence of the ability of the Egyptians for morphological observation. Babylonia has but few representations of animals left. The Babylonian demonology created mixed forms of animal and human parts, and the tendency to represent supernatural beings led to unnatural pictures. These designs prevail and cause the impression of a lack of morphological ability in the Babylonian art.

Real zoological specimens are rare and it is a misfortune when they are lost. This is what has happened to one which was pointed out to me in the Metropolitan Museum and which has since disappeared. It was made from dark green slate, somewhat flat, and pierced through the middle at the greatest width. It was to be worn on a string suspended about the neck. One side was almost plain and showed engraved animals, as is common on old seal cylinders. I judged it to be an amulet imitating a seal. But the other sides of the object showed the configuration of an animal about to jump. I immediately recognized (not a kangaroo, as was suggested to me but) the desert jumping mouse (*Dipus Aegyptiacus*). The tail and the ears had almost gone. The tibia of the jumping mouse is twice the length of the femur, exactly as in this piece. The paws and toes were also characteristic of the jumping mouse. The lost specimen showed a very good perception on the part of the Babylonian artist for characteristic zoological details and the ability to present those details in simple form. The jumping mouse is found on the borders of the Babylonian desert, and is eaten by the rustics. It is mentioned in Isaiah 66.17 along with the prohibited pig.

FELIX VON OEFELE

New York

A Jewish mortuary amulet

AN ANTIQUITY DEALER in New York has put in my hands for decipherment a charm similar to those which I treated in this